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Minutes, Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee Meeting, Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee

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Academic Affairs Committee

Meeting Minutes
March 11, 2014

Opening:

Claire Strom called to order the regular meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee at 12:31 pm on March 11, 2014 in CSS 167.

Present:

Claire Strom, Vidhu Aggarwal, Pedro Bernal, Gloria Cook, Philip Deaver, Martina Vidovic, Susan Walsh, Jonathan Walz

Visitors: Gregory Cavanaugh, Jennifer Cavanaugh, Donald Davison, Philip Kozel, Sharon Lusk, Robin Mateo, Holly Pohlig, Katia Chadaideh (student), Gabrielle Masse (student)

- A. Minutes approved from last meeting (February 18, 2014)**
- B. Donald Davison and Philip Kozel – New Major: Public Policy and Political Economy**

Donald Davison and Philip Kozel represented their departments in proposing a new major in Public Policy and Political Economy. The concept for the new program developed over many years. The major draws from the existing Rollins faculty in Political Science and Economics, respectively, to comprise a new program. Davison noted the presence of similar programs at aspirant institutions, such as Grinnell and Carleton. The program offers a new choice to Liberal Arts and Science students focused on public policy, a strong interdisciplinary and pragmatic option for Rollins graduates. Davison and Kozel submitted a document that outlines the program and its proposed curriculum, including five core courses, eight elective courses, and a one-semester, senior experience.

Kozel noted that the new major requires only one additional introductory course be added to the Arts and Sciences curriculum: POL/ECO 119 - Contemporary Issues in Public Policy and Economics. Jonathan Walz suggested that courses from other departments be added to the potential electives for the new major. Davison noted that additional electives from other departments can be approved by the faculty of the new major. Davison further remarked that it is likely many students in the new major also will minor in either Political Science or Economics. There is no expectation that this new major will negatively impact the standing departments or affiliated programs, like International Relations. Susan Walsh inquired about whether there

should be a clear policy about students not double-majoring in the new major and Political Science, due to the overlap in courses between the two majors. Davison replied that there is no expectation that a substantial number of students would seek such a double-major, but, if this practice became common, then the department would address this concern.

Kozel noted that a senior capstone course may be added to the new major at a later point. G. Cavanaugh inquired about the form of the capstone. Davison remarked that the capstone will be developed after the program gains traction so the department's faculty can reflect on student and program needs. G. Cavanaugh asked about details of the compensation for the new program's director. Davison noted that others in the administration would make determinations about compensation.

By vote, AAC unanimously approved the proposed major in Public Policy and Political Economy.

C. Claire Strom – Notification of Forthcoming Topics for AAC

Claire Strom noted two topics requiring attention from ACC in the near future. First, Strom noted that the Career and Life Planning pilot courses offered this year will be extended into Fall 2014. Strom raised the possibility of such future courses being taught on a Sunday evening. Sharon Lusk suggested that Sunday courses may present religious concerns for some students. The topic will be further addressed at a later date.

Second, Strom noted that Maymester may need to be revised. The original idea of Maymester was to provide Rollins students with an option to take classes at Rollins, so as to maintain quality in their summer instruction and to raise revenue for Rollins. As it stands Maymester occurs in May and early June and offers courses that satisfy the old GenEd curriculum (C, V, D, etc.) as well as courses that are "bottlenecks" in certain majors. Students may take one course during Maymester. Strom raised the possibility of changing the purpose, form, and/or scheduling of Maymester, especially in relation to the new GenEd curriculum. Strom noted that AAC provide concrete proposal options about Maymester by Fall 2014 (for potential implementation in 2015).

Gloria Cook, Jenny Cavanaugh, and Strom raised the prospect of Maymester also providing "safety net" courses for students who do not succeed in neighborhood courses in the new GenEd curriculum. Gabrielle Masse noted that she liked the idea of Maymester being used in part for competencies, for example language courses. Walz suggested that Maymester might be moved to the end of the summer and that this would enable language courses leading up to additional fall language courses (continuity) rather than language courses in May and a three month hiatus of language study before each fall semester. Walz also suggested such summer courses in language be open to community members interested in English as a second language. Moreover, a late summer Maymester might better serve forthcoming Jindal students. Cook inquired whether a newly envisioned Maymester would compete with Holt programs. Lusk suggested that Holt work closely with the College of Arts and

Sciences and the College of Professional Studies on this and related issues tied to Maymester.

Strom formed an AAC sub-committee with Pedro Bernal, J. Cavanaugh, Lusk, and Masse to consider revisions to Maymester.

Adjournment:

Claire Strom adjourned the AAC meeting at 1:11pm. The next general meeting of AAC will be at 12:30 pm on March 18, 2014 in CSS 167.

Minutes submitted by

Jonathan Walz

Approved by
